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AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 11, 13, 14, 20, 21, 26, 32, 36, 37, 44, 50-61 to read as follows:

F1
11. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the amount of BAG-1 protein product using an immunoassay.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined prior to lymph node involvement of said cancer.

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14. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined after lymph node involvement of said cancer.

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20. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein that is detectable in samples selected from the group consisting of breast tumor tissue, blood, serum, and plasma.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising determining if said level of BAG-1 protein expression represents an overproduction that is above a reference level of BAG-1 expression.

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26. (Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

F4 (a) determining an overproduction level for BAG-1 protein, said level being in excess of a minimum amount statistically determined to be indicative of decreased likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread;

(b) determining the level of BAG-1 protein expression in said tumor sample; and

(c) predicting said risk of tumor recurrence or spread wherein an overproduction level of BAG-1 protein in the tumor sample is negatively associated with the likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread.

F5 32. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the level of expression of BAG-1 protein is measured using an immunoassay.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined prior to lymph node involvement.

F6 37. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined after lymph node involvement of said cancer.

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44. (Twice Amended) A method for determining risk of tumor recurrence or spread in a patient suffering from breast cancer, said method comprising:

(a) determining, using a BAG-1 specific antibody, the level of expression of BAG-1 protein in a cancerous tissue of a patient during stage I or stage II of said cancer; and

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(b) classifying said patient as belonging either to a first group of patients having high levels of expression of BAG-1, or a second group of patients having low levels of expression of BAG-1,

wherein said first group has a lower likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread than said second group, thereby determining a lower risk of tumor recurrence or spread in the first group of patients suffering from breast cancer.

50. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

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51. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

52. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein said level of expression of BAG-1 protein is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

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53 53. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

55. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

56. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by immunohistochemistry.

57. (Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by immunohistochemistry.

58 58. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said level of expression of BAG-1 protein is determined by immunohistochemistry.

59. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by immunohistochemistry.

60. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by immunohistochemistry.

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61. (Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said level of expression of BAG-1 protein is determined by immunohistochemistry.

[Please add new claims 62-66:]

--62. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of body fluid containing breast cancer cells.

63. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of body fluid containing breast cancer cells.

64. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said level of expression of BAG-1 protein is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of body fluid containing breast cancer cells.

65. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of body fluid containing breast cancer cells.

66. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level